UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _01 March 2010_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _13,18 and 24-27_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _13,18 and 24-27_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _29 January 2004_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _2/19/10,3/1/10,3/29/10,4/13/10,7/27/10,8/3/10_.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March

1, 2010 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13, 18, and 24-27 have been

considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3.   35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of
> matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the
> conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 13 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed

invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 13 and 18 defines a

computer readable medium embodying functional descriptive material. However, the

claim does not define a non-transitory computer readable medium or memory and is

thus non-statutory for that reason (i.e., "When functional descriptive material is recorded

on some computer readable medium it becomes structurally and functionally

interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology

permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized" - Guidelines Annex IV).

That is, the scope of the presently claimed computer readable medium can range from

paper on which the program is written, to a program simply contemplated and

memorized by a person. In the state of the art, transitory signals are commonplace as a

medium for transmitting computer instruction and thus, in the absence of any evidence

to the contrary and give the broadest reasonable interpretation; the scope of a

"computer readable medium" covers a signal per se. In order to overcome the 101, the

"computer readable medium" should be changed to "non-transitory computer readable

medium".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 13, 18, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Kato et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0145702) in

view of Ando et al. (U.S. Patent 7,054,545) in view of Seo et al. (U.S. Patent Application

Publication 2001/0056580).

        Regarding claim **13**, Kato et al. discloses a computer readable medium

having a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one still

picture, comprising: a playlist area storing at least one playlist file (Fig. 14), the at

least one playlist file including at least one playitem and at least one sub-playitem

(Fig. 7), the at least one playitem indicating an in-point and out-point of the first

stream file to reproduce the presentation data, and the at least one sub-playitem

indicating an in-point and out-point of a second stream file to reproduce the audio

data (Figs. 3, 7, 32, and 40). However, Kato et al. fails to disclose a data area

storing first stream file including presentation data and second stream file

including audio data, the presentation data being divided into at least one still

picture unit, the at least one still picture unit including at least still picture and

associated graphic data; the playitem including first duration information

indicating whether to display the at least still picture in the at least one still picture

unit for one of a finite and an infinite period of time; and wherein the at least one

playitem further includes second duration information indicating a length of time

to display the at least one still picture when the first duration information indicates

to display the at least one still picture for a finite period of time, wherein the at

least one still picture and associated graphic data in the at least one still picture

unit are reproduced synchronously, and the audio data is reproduced

independently from the at least one still picture unit.

Referring to the Ando et al. reference, Ando et al. discloses a computer

readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction duration of

still pictures, comprising: a data area storing first stream file including

presentation data and a second stream file including audio data (Figs. 1 and 7;

col. 5, lines 29-33), the presentation data being divided into at least one still
picture unit, the at least one still picture unit including at least one still picture
(Figs. 1, 4, and 11); a clip information area storing at least one clip information
file, each clip information file being associated with at least one stream file stored
in a data area, the clip information file providing a map for the associated stream
file, each map mapping representation time information to address information
for the associated stream file (Figs. 3 and 4; col. 7, lines 7-63; col. 9, lines 1-33);
and a navigation area storing at least one playlist (col. 11, lines 12-15), the
playlist referencing the clip information file and including at least one playitem,
the playitem indicating at least one of the still picture units to reproduce and
providing duration information for display of the still picture in the still picture unit
(Figs. 7, 8, 10, and 11; col. 39, lines 38-50); wherein the first duration information
indicates whether to display the at least one still picture in the at least one still
picture unit for one of a finite and an infinite period of time, and wherein the at
least one playitem further includes second duration information indicating a
length of time to display the at least one still picture when the first duration
information indicates to display the at least one still picture for a finite period of
time (col. 39, lines 38-63 – audio and still information), wherein the audio data is
reproduced independently from the last one still picture unit (col. 29, lines 14-24 -
the system has a browsable and random feature of the slide show thereby
meaning the audio and still picture units would be played back independent of
one another).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the duration information in the navigation information as disclosed by Ando et al. in the medium disclosed by Kato et al. in order for the playlist to perform more efficiently by knowing the duration of each playtime thereby creating an overall better viewing experience. However, Kato et al. in view of Ando et al. still fail to disclose wherein the audio data is reproduced asynchronously and independently from the at least one still picture unit. However, Kato in view of Ando et al. fail still fail to disclose the still picture unit including at least one still picture and associated graphic data, and the still picture and associated graphic data in the at least one still picture unit are reproduced synchronously.

Referring to the Seo et al. reference, Seo et al. discloses the still picture unit including the at least one still picture and associated graphic data, and the still picture and associated graphic data in the still picture unit configured to be reproduced synchronously (paragraph [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the at least one still picture and graphic data reproduced synchronously as disclosed by Seo et al. in the medium disclosed by Kato in view of Ando et al. in order to include graphic data with the still picture to provide the viewer interactive contents so that the viewer could communicate with the contents in a desirable fashion.

Regarding claim **18**, Kato in view of Ando et al. in view of Seo et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 13 including that the at least one still picture unit includes only one still picture (Ando et al.: Figs. 7, 8, and 10).

Regarding claim **24**, Kato et al. discloses a method of recording a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one still picture on a recording medium, comprising: recording at least one playlist file on the recording medium (Fig. 14), the at least one playlist file including at least one playitem and at least one sub-playitem (Fig. 7), the at least one playitem indicating in-point and out-point of the first stream file to reproduce the presentation data, and the at least one sub-playitem indicating an in-point and out-point of a second stream file to reproduce the audio data (Figs. 3, 7, 32, and 40). However, Kato et al. fails to disclose a data area storing first stream file including presentation data and second stream file including audio data, the presentation data being divided into at least one still picture unit, the at least one still picture unit including at least still picture and associated graphic data; the playitem including first duration information indicating whether to display the at least still picture in the at least one still picture unit for one of a finite and an infinite period of time; and wherein the at least one playitem further includes second duration information indicating a length of time to display the at least one still picture when the first duration information indicates to display the at least one still picture for a finite period of time, wherein the at least one still picture and associated graphic data in the at

least one still picture unit are reproduced synchronously, and the audio data is reproduced independently from the at least one still picture unit.

Referring to the Ando et al. reference, Ando et al. discloses a method of recording a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one still picture on a recording medium, comprising: a data area storing first stream file including presentation data and a second stream file including audio data (Figs. 1 and 7; col. 5, lines 29-33), the presentation data being divided into at least one still picture unit, the at least one still picture unit including at least one still picture (Figs. 1, 4, and 11); a clip information area storing at least one clip information file, each clip information file being associated with at least one stream file stored in a data area, the clip information file providing a map for the associated stream file, each map mapping representation time information to address information for the associated stream file (Figs. 3 and 4; col. 7, lines 7-63; col. 9, lines 1-33); and a navigation area storing at least one playlist (col. 11, lines 12-15), the playlist referencing the clip information file and including at least one playitem, the playitem indicating at least one of the still picture units to reproduce and providing duration information for display of the still picture in the still picture unit (Figs. 7, 8, 10, and 11; col. 39, lines 38-50); wherein the first duration information indicates whether to display the at least one still picture in the at least one still picture unit for one of a finite and an infinite period of time, and wherein the at least one playitem further includes second duration information indicating a length of time to display the at least one still picture when the first duration

information indicates to display the at least one still picture for a finite period of

time (col. 39, lines 38-63 – audio and still information), wherein the audio data is

reproduced independently from the last one still picture unit (col. 29, lines 14-24 -

the system has a browsable and random feature of the slide show thereby

meaning the audio and still picture units would be played back independent of

one another).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to have included the duration information in the

navigation information as disclosed by Ando et al. in the method disclosed by

Kato et al. in order for the playlist to perform more efficiently by knowing the

duration of each playtime thereby creating an overall better viewing experience.

However, Kato et al. in view of Ando et al. still fail to disclose wherein the audio

data is reproduced asynchronously and independently from the at least one still

picture unit. However, Kato in view of Ando et al. fail still fail to disclose the still

picture unit including at least one still picture and associated graphic data, and

the still picture and associated graphic data in the at least one still picture unit are

reproduced synchronously.

Referring to the Seo et al. reference, Seo et al. discloses a method of

recording a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one still

picture on a recording medium, comprising a still picture unit including the at

least one still picture and associated graphic data, and the still picture and

associated graphic data in the still picture unit configured to be reproduced synchronously (paragraph [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the at least one still picture and graphic data reproduced synchronously as disclosed by Seo et al. in the method disclosed by Kato in view of Ando et al. in order to include graphic data with the still picture to provide the viewer interactive contents so that the viewer could communicate with the contents in a desirable fashion.

Regarding claim **25**, Kato et al. discloses a method of reproducing a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one still picture recorded on a recording medium, comprising: reproducing at least one playlist file from the recording medium, the at least one playlist file including at least one playitem and at least one sub-playitem in the playlist file (Fig. 7), the at least one playitem indicating in-point and out-point of a first stream file to reproduce the presentation data, and the at least one sub-playitem indicating an in-point and out-point of a second stream file to reproduce the audio data (Figs. 3, 7, 32, and 40). However, Kato et al. fails to disclose a data area storing first stream file including presentation data and second stream file including audio data, the presentation data being divided into at least one still picture unit, the at least one still picture unit including at least still picture and associated graphic data; the playitem including first duration information indicating whether to display the at least still picture in the at least one still picture unit for one of a finite and an infinite period

of time; and wherein the at least one playitem further includes second duration information indicating a length of time to display the at least one still picture when the first duration information indicates to display the at least one still picture for a finite period of time, wherein the at least one still picture and associated graphic data in the at least one still picture unit are reproduced synchronously, and the audio data is reproduced independently from the at least one still picture unit.

Referring to the Ando et al. reference, Ando et al. discloses a method of reproducing a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one still picture on a recording medium, comprising: a data area storing first stream file including presentation data and a second stream file including audio data (Figs. 1 and 7; col. 5, lines 29-33), the presentation data being divided into at least one still picture unit, the at least one still picture unit including at least one still picture (Figs. 1, 4, and 11); a clip information area storing at least one clip information file, each clip information file being associated with at least one stream file stored in a data area, the clip information file providing a map for the associated stream file, each map mapping representation time information to address information for the associated stream file (Figs. 3 and 4; col. 7, lines 7-63; col. 9, lines 1-33); and a navigation area storing at least one playlist (col. 11, lines 12-15), the playlist referencing the clip information file and including at least one playitem, the playitem indicating at least one of the still picture units to reproduce and providing duration information for display of the still picture in the still picture unit (Figs. 7, 8, 10, and 11; col. 39, lines 38-50); wherein the first

duration information indicates whether to display the at least one still picture in the at least one still picture unit for one of a finite and an infinite period of time, and wherein the at least one playitem further includes second duration information indicating a length of time to display the at least one still picture when the first duration information indicates to display the at least one still picture for a finite period of time (col. 39, lines 38-63 – audio and still information), wherein the audio data is reproduced independently from the last one still picture unit (col. 29, lines 14-24 - the system has a browsable and random feature of the slide show thereby meaning the audio and still picture units would be played back independent of one another).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the duration information in the navigation information as disclosed by Ando et al. in the method disclosed by Kato et al. in order for the playlist to perform more efficiently by knowing the duration of each playtime thereby creating an overall better viewing experience. However, Kato et al. in view of Ando et al. still fail to disclose wherein the audio data is reproduced asynchronously and independently from the at least one still picture unit. However, Kato in view of Ando et al. fail still fail to disclose the still picture unit including at least one still picture and associated graphic data, and the still picture and associated graphic data in the at least one still picture unit are reproduced synchronously.

Referring to the Seo et al. reference, Seo et al. discloses a method of

reproducing a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one

still picture on a recording medium, comprising a still picture unit including the at

least one still picture and associated graphic data, and the still picture and

associated graphic data in the still picture unit configured to be reproduced

synchronously (paragraph [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to have the at least one still picture and graphic

data reproduced synchronously as disclosed by Seo et al. in the method

disclosed by Kato in view of Ando et al. in order to include graphic data with the

still picture to provide the viewer interactive contents so that the viewer could

communicate with the contents in a desirable fashion.

Regarding claim **26**, Kato et al. discloses an apparatus for recording a

data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one still picture on a

recording medium, comprising: a pickup configured to record data on the

recording medium; a controller configured to control the pickup to record at least

one playitem and at least one sub-playitem in the playlist file (Fig. 7), the at least

one playitem indicating in-point and out-point of a first stream file to reproduce at

least one still picture, and the at least one sub-playitem indicating an in-point and

out-point of a second stream file to reproduce the audio data (Figs. 3, 7, 32, and

40). However, Kato et al. fails to disclose a data area storing first stream file

including presentation data and second stream file including audio data, the

presentation data being divided into at least one still picture unit, the at least one

still picture unit including at least still picture and associated graphic data; the

playitem including first duration information indicating whether to display the at

least still picture in the at least one still picture unit for one of a finite and an

infinite period of time; and wherein the at least one playitem further includes

second duration information indicating a length of time to display the at least one

still picture when the first duration information indicates to display the at least one

still picture for a finite period of time, wherein the at least one still picture and

associated graphic data in the at least one still picture unit are reproduced

synchronously, and the audio data is reproduced independently from the at least

one still picture unit.

Referring to the Ando et al. reference, Ando et al. discloses an apparatus

for recording a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one

still picture on a recording medium, comprising: a data area storing first stream

file including presentation data and a second stream file including audio data

(Figs. 1 and 7; col. 5, lines 29-33), the presentation data being divided into at

least one still picture unit, the at least one still picture unit including at least one

still picture (Figs. 1, 4, and 11); a clip information area storing at least one clip

information file, each clip information file being associated with at least one

stream file stored in a data area, the clip information file providing a map for the

associated stream file, each map mapping representation time information to

address information for the associated stream file (Figs. 3 and 4; col. 7, lines 7-

63; col. 9, lines 1-33); and a navigation area storing at least one playlist (col. 11,

lines 12-15), the playlist referencing the clip information file and including at least

one playitem, the playitem indicating at least one of the still picture units to

reproduce and providing duration information for display of the still picture in the

still picture unit (Figs. 7, 8, 10, and 11; col. 39, lines 38-50); wherein the first

duration information indicates whether to display the at least one still picture in

the at least one still picture unit for one of a finite and an infinite period of time,

and wherein the at least one playitem further includes second duration

information indicating a length of time to display the at least one still picture when

the first duration information indicates to display the at least one still picture for a

finite period of time (col. 39, lines 38-63 – audio and still information), wherein the

audio data is reproduced independently from the last one still picture unit (col. 29,

lines 14-24 - the system has a browsable and random feature of the slide show

thereby meaning the audio and still picture units would be played back

independent of one another).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to have included the duration information in the

navigation information as disclosed by Ando et al. in the medium disclosed by

Kato et al. in order for the playlist to perform more efficiently by knowing the

duration of each playtime thereby creating an overall better viewing experience.

However, Kato et al. in view of Ando et al. still fail to disclose wherein the audio

data is reproduced asynchronously and independently from the at least one still

picture unit. However, Kato in view of Ando et al. fail still fail to disclose the still

picture unit including at least one still picture and associated graphic data, and

the still picture and associated graphic data in the at least one still picture unit are

reproduced synchronously.

Referring to the Seo et al. reference, Seo et al. discloses an apparatus for

recording a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one still

picture on a recording medium, comprising a still picture unit including the at

least one still picture and associated graphic data, and the still picture and

associated graphic data in the still picture unit configured to be reproduced

synchronously (paragraph [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to have the at least one still picture and graphic

data reproduced synchronously as disclosed by Seo et al. in the medium

disclosed by Kato in view of Ando et al. in order to include graphic data with the

still picture to provide the viewer interactive contents so that the viewer could

communicate with the contents in a desirable fashion.

Regarding claim **27**, Kato et al. discloses an apparatus for reproducing a

data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one still picture

recorded on a recording medium, comprising: a pickup configured to record data

on the recording medium (Fig. 1); a controller configured to control the pickup to

reproduce at least one playlist and at least one clip information file area of the

recording medium, the clip information file being associated with at least one

stream file stored in a data area, the clip information file providing a map for the

associated stream file, each map mapping representation time information to

address information for the associated stream file (Figs. 2, 14; paragraph [0195]);

reproducing at least one playitem and at least one sub-playitem in the playlist file

(Fig. 7), the at least one playitem indicating in-point and out-point of a first stream

file to reproduce at least one still picture, and the at least one sub-playitem

indicating an in-point and out-point of a second stream file to reproduce the audio

data (Figs. 3, 7, 32, and 40). However, Kato et al. fails to disclose a data area

storing first stream file including presentation data and second stream file

including audio data, the presentation data being divided into at least one still

picture unit, the at least one still picture unit including at least still picture and

associated graphic data; the playitem including first duration information

indicating whether to display the at least still picture in the at least one still picture

unit for one of a finite and an infinite period of time; and wherein the at least one

playitem further includes second duration information indicating a length of time

to display the at least one still picture when the first duration information indicates

to display the at least one still picture for a finite period of time, wherein the at

least one still picture and associated graphic data in the at least one still picture

unit are reproduced synchronously, and the audio data is reproduced

independently from the at least one still picture unit.

Referring to the Ando et al. reference, Ando et al. discloses an apparatus

for reproducing a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least

one still picture on a recording medium, comprising: a data area storing first

stream file including presentation data and a second stream file including audio

data (Figs. 1 and 7; col. 5, lines 29-33), the presentation data being divided into

at least one still picture unit, the at least one still picture unit including at least

one still picture (Figs. 1, 4, and 11); a clip information area storing at least one

clip information file, each clip information file being associated with at least one

stream file stored in a data area, the clip information file providing a map for the

associated stream file, each map mapping representation time information to

address information for the associated stream file (Figs. 3 and 4; col. 7, lines 7-

63; col. 9, lines 1-33); and a navigation area storing at least one playlist (col. 11,

lines 12-15), the playlist referencing the clip information file and including at least

one playitem, the playitem indicating at least one of the still picture units to

reproduce and providing duration information for display of the still picture in the

still picture unit (Figs. 7, 8, 10, and 11; col. 39, lines 38-50); wherein the first

duration information indicates whether to display the at least one still picture in

the at least one still picture unit for one of a finite and an infinite period of time,

and wherein the at least one playitem further includes second duration

information indicating a length of time to display the at least one still picture when

the first duration information indicates to display the at least one still picture for a

finite period of time (col. 39, lines 38-63 – audio and still information), wherein the

audio data is reproduced independently from the last one still picture unit (col. 29,

lines 14-24 - the system has a browsable and random feature of the slide show

thereby meaning the audio and still picture units would be played back independent of one another).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the duration information in the navigation information as disclosed by Ando et al. in the medium disclosed by Kato et al. in order for the playlist to perform more efficiently by knowing the duration of each playtime thereby creating an overall better viewing experience. However, Kato et al. in view of Ando et al. still fail to disclose wherein the audio data is reproduced asynchronously and independently from the at least one still picture unit. However, Kato in view of Ando et al. fail still fail to disclose the still picture unit including at least one still picture and associated graphic data, and the still picture and associated graphic data in the at least one still picture unit are reproduced synchronously.

Referring to the Seo et al. reference, Seo et al. discloses an apparatus for reproducing a data structure for managing reproduction duration of at least one still picture on a recording medium, comprising a still picture unit including the at least one still picture and associated graphic data, and the still picture and associated graphic data in the still picture unit configured to be reproduced synchronously (paragraph [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the at least one still picture and graphic data reproduced synchronously as disclosed by Seo et al. in the medium

disclosed by Kato in view of Ando et al. in order to include graphic data with the still picture to provide the viewer interactive contents so that the viewer could communicate with the contents in a desirable fashion.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HEATHER R. JONES whose telephone number is (571)272-7368. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs.: 7:00 am - 4:30 pm, and every other Fri.: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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